

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN THE
MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT
AND THE
WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

TO ESTABLISH AND IMPLEMENT
A PARTNERSHIP FOR CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION**

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding is to provide a framework for the leadership of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources to establish, where applicable, common goals to jointly pursue research, planning, and implementation focused on climate change adaptation and mitigation. Common goals include protecting the health and integrity of our natural ecosystems and human population through the wise stewardship of our natural and cultural resources.

BACKGROUND:

Both state agencies agree that climate change poses a grave and immediate threat to the environment, quality of life, and economy for all of our citizens, and past emissions have given climate change momentum such that the climate will change for the next 50 years, regardless of any mitigation undertaken now. While mitigation is the action we take to curtail emissions of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping gases, adaptation is the action to prepare for a changing climate regardless of ongoing mitigation efforts.

Due to our geographical and cultural association with the Great Lakes, the Governors, tribes, local and regional government, and colleges and universities of the states of Michigan and Wisconsin all recognize the vital importance of the health and quality of the Great Lakes ecosystem, including the natural, physical, and economic welfare of all of our citizens. Accordingly, all concerned understand that the prevention and mitigation of significant global warming must include changes in social, economic, and governmental activities at both state and regional scales.

For efficiency sake, all attempts to mitigate and adapt to climate change requires a shared commitment that combines our respective expertise and resources to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and determine the best strategies to adapt to climate change. While two states can begin this cooperative process, it is the goal of both Michigan and Wisconsin to invite others for a multi-state cooperative to help the Great Lakes region by maximizing our collective strengths in research, coordination, strategic thinking, funding, and other advantages.

IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD THAT:

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources will:

- Exchange information and data to promote a more thorough understanding of each agency's mission, responsibility, and authority;
- Enhance coordination and cooperation along the state borders, within watersheds, and the Great Lakes;

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- Identify and communicate opportunities for joint participation in projects and programs of mutual interest;
- Share results of research to limit inefficiency and duplications of effort;
- Provide technical assistance to help ensure appropriate environmental and engineering evaluations, when applicable, are conducted;
- Propose action plans to address global warming and climate change adaptation through any feasible methods;
- Explore potential funding options for greenhouse gas mitigation and climate change adaptation.

To further their mutual goals to combat global warming through the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions and the development and implementation of adaptation strategies, both parties agree to designate appropriate representatives of their respective natural resources or environmental programs. These representatives, to be designated within one month of the signing of this agreement, shall meet at least twice each year to determine common objectives and discuss how our respective natural and human systems can be helped to survive the changing climatic conditions. Whenever possible, and to reduce travel, such meetings can be held via conference calls and coincide with other state or federal events.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This agreement has no end date and shall become effective upon signature of both parties. The agreement will be reviewed on an annual basis and may be terminated by either party by giving a 30-day written notice to the other party of intent to terminate.

In witness thereof, the parties sign their name as evidence of their approval of this Memorandum of Understanding.


For the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment:



Rebecca A. Humphries, Director

7/21/10
Date

For the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources:



Matthew J. Frank, Secretary

8-6-10
Date